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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 97-102 are pending.

Claims 97-102 have been rejected.

Claim 97 has been amended in this submission. Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claim add no new matter. It is noted that the amendment of claim 97 is supported at least, in the first paragraph of page 11, as well as in the last paragraph of page 3 of the application as filed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 97-102 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 97 has been amended to overcome the rejection noted by the Examiner. Support for the typographical amendment may be found in the first paragraph of page 11 of the application as filed.

Applicants respectfully assert that this amendment to claim 97 render claims 97-102 proper under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and request that the rejections be withdrawn.

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35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 97-102 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Pelrine, et al. (US2002/0106314). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the amendment to claim 97 and the remarks that follow.

Claim 97 (as amended) recites a method for manipulating biological cells, comprising the steps:

positioning at least one biological cell on at least one cell carrier, wherein the cell carrier comprises a bottom element, which is arranged such that it can be displaced on a solid base surface, wherein the cell carrier has a lateral dimension within the range from 10 μm to 1 cm and a height within the range from 0.5 μm to 2000 μm , and

moving the cell carrier with the at least one biological cell on the base surface by exerting a magnetic force.

The Pelrine reference does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of claim 97. In particular, the Pelrine reference does not disclose a cell carrier, which comprises a bottom element, arranged such that it can be displaced on a solid base surface, as recited in claim 97. The cell carrier having the bottom element of the invention, has improved mechanical stability, as is outlined, on page 3, second paragraph, lines 6-11, in the translation of the application as submitted to the USPTO:

... wherein a bottom element is provided by which the cell carrier can be placed and displaced on a solid surface in a mechanically stable manner. By providing the bottom element, which forms a support on an underside of the cell carrier, positional stability is advantageously achieved both in the rest state and in the state in which it is moved by the magnetic force.

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In contrast, as was also asserted by the Examiner, Pelrine et al. discloses a **levitating**-particle device in which magnetic microparticles and/or effectors are **levitated** adjacent a diamagnetic surface.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that amended independent claim 97 is allowable. Claims 98 and 100-102 depend from, directly or indirectly, claim 97, and therefore include all the limitations of those claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 98 and 100-102 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to amended independent claim 97 and to claims 98 and 100-102 dependent thereon.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 97, 98, and 100-102.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants assert that the pending claims are allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,

/Guy Yonay/

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